CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A network message storage and delivery system, comprising:

means for receiving an incoming call and for detecting an address signal associated with said incoming call, said address signal associated with a user of said message storage and delivery system;

means for receiving a message accompanied with said address signal, said message being in a first file format;

means for converting said message from said first file format to a second file format;

means for storing said message in said second file format in a storage area;

means for receiving a request from said user for said message and for retrieving said message from said storage area; and

means for transmitting a least a portion of said message in said second file format to said user over a transmission link;

wherein said portion of said message is transmitted to said user over the network, said second file format is a mixed media page layout language and comprises a standard generalized mark-up language.

2. A network message storage and delivery system, comprising:

means for receiving an incoming call and for detecting an address signal associated with said incoming call, said address signal associated with a user of said message storage and delivery system;

means for receiving a message accompanied with said address signal, said message being in a first file format;

means for converting said message from said first file format to a second file format;

means for storing said message in said second file format in a storage area;

means for receiving a request from said user for said message and for retrieving said message from said storage area; and

means for transmitting a least a portion of said message in said second file format to said user over a transmission link;

wherein said portion of said message is transmitted to said user over the network, said second file format is a mixed media page layout language, and said network comprises the Internet.

3. A network message storage and delivery system, comprising:

a central processor for receiving an incoming call, for detecting an address signal on said incoming call, for detecting a message on said incoming call, and for placing said message in a storage area, said address signal being associated with a user of said network message storage and delivery system;

a network server for receiving said message from said storage area, for converting said message into a mixed media page layout language, and for placing said message in said storage area;

wherein when said network server receives a request from said user over said network, said network server transmits at least a portion of said message over said network to said user over a transmission link and wherein said network comprises the Internet and said network server comprises an Internet server.

4. A method of storing and delivering a message for a user, comprising the steps of:

receiving an incoming call and detecting an address signal associated with said incoming call, said address signal associated with a user;

receiving a message associated with said address signal, said message being in a first file format;

converting said message from said first file format to a second file format;

storing said message in said second file format in a storage area;

receiving a request from said user for said message and retrieving said message from said storage area; and

transmitting at least a portion of said message in said second file format to said user over a transmission link;

wherein said step of transmitting occurs over a network, said step of converting said message converts said message into a mixed media page layout language, and said step of transmitting occurs over the Internet.

11. A system for receiving and storing a message signal directed to an intended recipient and for relaying the message signal to a computer, comprising:

a telephone interface for receiving an incoming call from a public switched telephone network, the incoming call including the message signal;

a central processor for receiving the message signal from the telephone interface and for storing the message signal in a storage medium;

a hyper-text transfer protocol deamon for receiving a request for the message signal from the computer and for forwarding the request to a network server, the request from the computer being formatted in a hyper-text transfer protocol; and

the network server, in response to receiving the request from the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon, forwarding at least a part of the message signal to the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon;

wherein the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon transmits at least part of the message signal to the computer.

12. The system as set forth in claim 11, wherein the network server converts the message signal from a first file format into a standard generalized mark-up language.

13. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the central processor converts the message signal from a first file format into a standard generalized mark-up language.

8. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon transmits the message in a hyper-text mark-up language.

9. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon transmits the message in a hand-held device mark-up language.

10. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon transmits the message in an extensible mark-up language.

11. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon transmits the message in a virtual reality mark-up language.

12. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon receives the request from the computer through the Internet.

13. The system as set forth in claim 7, wherein the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon receives the request from the computer through an intranet.

14. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the telephone interface receives an address signal as part of the incoming call and the central processor stores the message signal in a directory associated with that address signal.

15. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the message signal comprises a facsimile transmission.

16. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the message signal comprises a voice message.

17. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the message signal comprises a data file.

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18. The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein the request sent from the computer to the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon comprises a search query specifying at least one search parameter for a desired search, the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon transfers the search query to the network server, the network server performs the desired search by identifying all message signals satisfying the at least one search parameter, and the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon sends results of the desired search to the computer.

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19. The system as set forth in claim 18, wherein the central processor stores a data entry for each message signal.

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20. The system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the data entry comprises a plurality of fields for identifying the message signal.

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21. The system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the central processor stores the data entry in a relational database.

22. The system as set forth in claim 18, wherein the central processor returns a listing of all message signals contained within the desired search to the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon and the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon sends the list to the computer.

23. A method for receiving and storing a message signal directed to an intended recipient and for relaying the message signal to a computer, comprising the steps of:

receiving an incoming call from a public switched telephone network, the incoming call including the message signal;

storing the message signal in a storage medium;

receiving, at a hyper-text transfer protocol deamon, a request for the message signal from the computer and forwarding the request to a network server;

forwarding at least a part of the message signal from the network server to the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon; and

transmitting at least part of the message signal from the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon to the computer.

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24. The method as set forth in claim 23, further comprising a step of converting the request from a first file format into a standard generalized mark-up language.

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25. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the request comprises a step of receiving the request in a standard generalized mark-up language.

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26. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the request comprises a step of receiving the request in a hyper-text mark-up language.

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27. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the request comprises a step of receiving the request in a hand-held mark-up language.

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28. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the request comprises a step of receiving the request in an extensible mark-up language.

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29. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the request comprises a step of receiving the request in a virtual reality mark-up language.

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30. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the call comprises a step of receiving a facsimile transmission..

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31. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the call comprises a step of receiving a voice message.

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32. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the call comprises a step of receiving a data file.

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33. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the request comprises a step of receiving the request through the Internet.

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34. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the request comprises a step of receiving the request through an intranet.

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35. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the request comprises a step of receiving a search query from the computer with the search query specifying at least one search parameter for a desired search and the method further comprises the steps of performing the desired search through the storage and returning results of the desired search to the computer.

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36. The method as set forth in claim 35, further comprising a step of storing a data entry in the storage for each message signal received.

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37. The method as set forth in claim 35, wherein the step of returning the results comprises a step of returning a listing of all message signals contained within the desired search.

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38. The method as set forth in claim 35, further comprising a step of saving the results of the desired search in the storage.

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39. A computer-readable medium for storing software for use in storing and delivering a message signal, the software for use in performing the steps of:

receiving an incoming call from a public switched telephone network, the incoming call including the message signal;

storing the message signal in a storage medium;

receiving, at a hyper-text transfer protocol deamon, a request for the message signal from the computer and forwarding the request to a network server;

forwarding at least a part of the message signal from the network server to the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon; and

transmitting at least part of the message signal from the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon to the computer